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Assistant Director for Operations

Chief, FBIB

Frost letter of 3 February 1949

1. The curtailment of BBC ~~Monitoring Service activities out-~~lined in subject letter will not vitally affect FBIB operations or the quality and volume of its product. They do have the following implications:

- a. Cancellation of BBC reports is not of concern to FBIB.
- b. The requirement to supply Latin American material to BBC, an integral part of the original FBIB-BBC reciprocal arrangement, does not materially increase FBIB costs or workload. It does make necessary the use of the full quota of 20,000 words per day presently allotted FBIB by the Army Communications Service on its circuits eastbound from Washington to London. It would also have to be taken into consideration in any future proposal to discontinue FBIB monitoring of Latin American broadcasts for budgetary or other reasons.
- c. Reduction in BBC Arabic monitoring will not alter present plans, which provide for full Arabic coverage at Kyrenia. It will increase the necessity, however, for removing the 10,000-word limitation on the daily cable file from Kyrenia to London.
- d. Reduction in monitoring of Finland should not affect CIA since ORE has indicated (memorandum of 29 Dec 48 to Chief, FBIB) disinterest in monitored material from Finland. Reduction in the volume of material from Scandinavia and to a smaller extent from Finland can be compensated by monitoring at the FBIB East Coast Bureau without considerable additional workload. Discontinuation of recently initiated BBC monitoring of Russian Baltic states, in particular of Riga, is inconsistent with FBIB's own efforts to expand monitoring of USSR Regional transmitters and is to be regretted, but is not a major loss against the great volume of other USSR coverage maintained.
- e. The almost complete elimination of voice coverage from the western zones of Germany and Austria will be a matter of considerable concern to the German/Austrian desks in ORE and other IAC agencies, which have repeatedly requested that such coverage be expanded in order to provide early information concerning trends in public opinion and in the economic conditions in these zones. It is believed in FBIB, however, that

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the significant yield in these respects from such broadcasts has been almost negligible. In any case, these medium-wave broadcasts cannot be monitored at any FBIB station.

2. Given the need for reduction for economy purposes, FBIB concurs in the action Frost proposes.

L. K. WHITE

PEE/jc

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